

PANAMA BUREAU LOGNOTE -- 16 November 1982

[redacted] ---AMBASSADORIAL VISIT---U.S. Ambassador Briggs, DCM Bill Pryce and Administrative Officer Don Schoeb visited the bureau the afternoon of 15 November for about an hour. Ambassador Briggs and the DCM had just arrived in Panama in October. The Ambassador is familiar with the workings of an FBIS bureau from a previous tour as DCM in Asuncion, Paraguay. The visitors were given a tour of the facility. The Ambassador had warm words for the FBIS product and commented favorably on the efficiency of our operation which, he noted, was larger than he had expected. Following the tour we spent about 15 minutes in my office. The discussion covered a number of topics, notably:

The bureau's affiliation with the Embassy. In response to the Ambassador's question I briefly reviewed the bureau's affiliation with the Embassy, the support we now receive from the Embassy and the military and our separate pay schedules. The Ambassador asked how we were perceived by the local populace. I said I thought we were relatively unknown, but were more likely associated with the military than the Embassy by the local villagers [redacted] (In our dealings with local businesses we generally use our Embassy affiliation.)

Recruiting. The Ambassador asked if we had any problems. I replied that our biggest headache was finding good monitors. I also noted the POV import duty problem. The Ambassador said that this had now been resolved. Schoeb commented that he had received word late Friday (12th) and was drafting a cable.

[redacted]

cc: C/Ops group

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